

SECURITY INFORMATION

VIA: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. MASA-956

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M  
Attention: [ ]  
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna

DATE: 6 November 1951

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational  
SPECIFIC - [ ]

Reference: MASW-225 and MASA-679

1. It was very gratifying to read in MASW-225 that [ ] will return to Austria as a contract agent, and we hope that he will be followed by others in the future, notably [ ] and [ ], once the latter's personal affairs are settled. Our assessment of [ ] capabilities and limitations was set forth in MASA-679, but we feel it advisable at this time to stress certain aspects in order to help Headquarters in contract negotiations.

2. [ ] value to this base in the past has always been in the field of marginal support to our operations, and we do not expect any significant change in this function in the future. [ ] is basically a dilettante with neither the drive nor the requisite judgement to act as an independent chief agent ~~operationally~~. When given a specific assignment within a particular frame of reference, he has, however, acquitted himself with imagination and discretion as shown in his handling of the Ferenc TASNADI-KOVACS affair in the summer of 1950. In any case, his past services in keeping the station informed on local Hungarian developments and personalities has demonstrated his value, and we expect him to continue and enlarge this work, thereby securing an important flank of our operations which has suffered since his departure and that of [ ].

3. We presume that Struder will be sent to Austria as National Council representative and head of the Hungarian Welfare Office. Since these two jobs will shortly be filled by (General) VASVARY, and VASVARY's close ties with the French are well known, [ ] presence alone will deny the French access to a position which might prove extremely advantageous to them and disadvantageous to us. We also feel that [ ] can use his position to exploit the operational possibilities of Salzburg's man-smugglers.

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ADDENDA TO MAS-A-956

5. [ ] reports that General VASVARY has decided to move from Bregenz to Salzburg when he assumes the duties of National Council representative and chief of the Hungarian Welfare Office. Since this is a reversal of his previous decision to remain in Bregenz and spend only two or three days a week in Salzburg, we must presume that the French pressed him into making the change for the benefit of their recruiting and debriefing operations. The addition of one more competitor in the scramble for bodies and information, particularly such a well-placed competitor, is the last thing we wish to see, and we urge you to expedite [ ] departure. He must have an explicit mandate to replace VASVARY as both Council representative and Welfare chief, since it is conceivable that the latter may attempt to prolong his tenure in one or both jobs with French backing.
6. Incidentally, [ ] does not appear to be as sure of his return as seems to be indicated in MAS-W-225. In a letter to [ ], received on 7 November, he expressed his hope of returning for the Council, and asked [ ] to intervene on his behalf with Ambassador VARGA.
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